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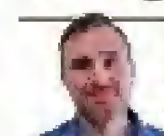
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Elder calls mall ban 'disrespectful'

KINGSWAY

Accusations of discrimination, arrogance disputed



Tim Querengesser
Metro | Edmonton

Kingsway Mall has banned Marlene Willier until September, and Willier says it's because of how she looks.

Willier, who identifies as indigenous, was at Kingsway Sunday, where she met a homeless man (who isn't indigenous) and bought him lunch at A&W — something she often does for down-and-out people.

The two were inside searching for an ATM when Willier said two security guards told her friend that he had to leave.

According to Willier, who's in her 60s, an argument ensued and the guards said both now had to go.

Willier said she and her friend obliged by walking outside to the parking lot to have a cigarette.

There, security guards approached again, she said.

"They said 'You didn't leave the property.' That's when they put handcuffs on us and took us to security and called police. They were so arrogant to us. They

were just laughing."

Jolena Bojic, marketing director with Kingsway, owned by Toronto-based Oxford Properties, confirmed Willier's ban but disputed her story.

Bojic said the man Willier was with had previously trespassed, and when security asked him to leave Willier argued with them.

Willier was initially given a 24-hour ban, Bojic said, but then the two wouldn't leave when asked to do so outside.

"Eventually that led to an arrest and police were called."

That's when guards gave Willier a six-month ban, Bojic said. She's also facing a \$287 trespassing fine.

Bojic said Kingsway has reviewed body-camera footage from the guards and feels the officials treated the pair "calmly and with dignity."

They've also reached out to Willier to discuss her comments in the media.

In 2014, security guards with City Centre Mall, also owned by Oxford, banned indigenous leader Gary Moostoos while he ate in the food court.

Moostoos said Tuesday he never goes back to City Centre, or even Kingsway, and he's taken note of Willier's story.

"It reminded me of what happened with me, and brought back what I was going through — the humiliation and all that," he said.

ANGER

As their detractors grit teeth, the NDP deliver their first throne speech metroNEWS

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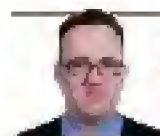
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ECONOMY

Payday loans crackdown promised



Ryan Tumilty
Metro | Edmonton

With a lagging economy pushing more Albertans to depend on payday loans, the provincial government pledged to crack down on the industry in Tuesday's speech from the throne.

Lt.-Gov. Lois Mitchell read the speech, setting out the government's agenda for the spring and promising a new act to end predatory lending.

"This has been allowed to go on for too long. Albertans need a government that will stand up for them when they are most vulnerable," she said.

Service Alberta Minister Stephanie McLean said some lenders are charging unfair rates.

"Right now, over an annualized payback, (consumers) are paying about 600 per cent in interest. It's absolutely unreasonable," she said.

But McLean said the government knows payday loans are the only option for some, so they're working with banks and community groups on other solutions.

Jeff Loomis, executive director of Momentum, a Calgary agency that offers money management classes, said many consumers of payday loans don't understand them.

"We think it is a really critical move. There are a lot of people on lower incomes that can get caught in a bad cycle of debt," he said.

Throne speech: Cuts, carbon and children

LEGISLATURE

Budget to be delivered on April 14: Ceci

Alberta's spring legislature session will focus on diversifying the province's battered oil-based economy, laying the groundwork for a carbon tax and cracking down on payday loan operators.

Premier Rachel Notley said Tuesday there will also be \$340 million in tax benefits for needy families and legislation to streamline and reduce a sprawling network of 301 boards, agencies and commissions.

The tax benefits are expected to help 380,000 children. A low-income single parent with two children would receive just over \$3,000 a year.

"Today's speech from the throne outlines an ambitious agenda of support for families, our economy, our energy and our environmental future," Notley told reporters before the throne speech.

The speech, which highlights government goals and priorities, was read in the legislature chamber by Lt.-Gov. Lois Mitchell to officially open a new session of the legislature.

The sitting is expected to run until early June and will include the 2016-17 budget, which Finance Minister Joe Ceci announced will be delivered on April 14.

Ceci has already said the projected deficit could be \$10 billion — double the amount of earlier forecasts.



Premier Rachel Notley has a laugh before the delivery of the Speech from the Throne, Tuesday.

JASON FRANSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS



I would reject the notion that we simply cover our ears, cover our eyes, cross our fingers and sit in a corner hoping that the economy recovers. Premier Rachel Notley

Notley's NDP government has resisted calls to cut public-sector jobs and services to reduce the red ink in lean times. Instead, it has increased spending for health, education and social services and ramped up capital spending to boost the economy

and build schools, roads and hospitals.

"I would reject the notion that we simply cover our ears, cover our eyes, cross our fingers and sit in a corner hoping that the economy recovers," said Notley.

To that end, the government put forward as Bill 1, a plan to expand job creation and diversification. The government now

plans to work with its \$23-billion credit-union system to encourage more such investment.

A climate change plan, introduced last year, is to be given regulatory teeth with legislation that will include a new broad-based carbon tax to begin Jan. 1.

Notley said Albertans will learn in the budget the cost details of the carbon levy. The carbon tax, which is estimated to bring in \$3 billion a year, is to be on everything from gas at the pumps to home heating and electricity bills. The government estimates 60 per cent of Albertans will receive some level of rebate.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

COURT

Trial begins in alleged killings

A trial has begun for an Alberta man charged in the deaths of two Edmonton-area seniors who disappeared nearly six years ago.

Travis Vader, a longtime suspect in the case, has pleaded not guilty to first-degree murder in the case of Lyle and Marie McCann.

The Crown says Vader, who is 44, was a crystal meth user and desperate for money when he killed the couple west of Edmonton in July 2010.

Prosecutor Jim Stewart told court in an opening statement that Vader's blood, fingerprints and DNA were found in the couple's abandoned SUV.

"We do know that they both met with significant violence and they are now dead," Stewart said.

"The only reasonable inference ... is that Mr. Vader murdered Lyle and Marie McCann."

Vader's lawyer, Brian Beresh, said in his opening address that experts will testify to problems with forensic evidence.

He said there's no proof beyond a reasonable doubt that the couple is dead and to say they were murdered is "speculation."

Beresh also said police had "tunnel vision," were under pressure to solve the case and failed to look at other suspects.

"The names of those suspects will be revealed at this trial," Beresh said. He says Vader became the RCMP's "number 1 villain" and he has waited for years to clear his name.

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Reform EI now: Advocates

WORK

Recent motion for changes struck down in Ottawa

Samantha Power
For Metro | Edmonton

Advocates say Alberta workers who have lost their jobs have been left high and dry after a federal motion to reform employment insurance was defeated in Ottawa Monday.

"The signal that Liberals and Conservatives have sent to Alberta workers is, 'You're on your own,'" said Jason Foster, a professor of labour relations at Athabasca University.

A New Democrat motion proposed to lower the hours required to qualify for employment insurance — from the more than 600 required in Alberta currently to 360. Both Liberals and Conservatives voted against the motion.

Only 37 per cent of Alberta's unemployed currently qualify for employment in-



Advocates say EI rules unfairly leave Alberta workers out of the system. THE CANADIAN PRESS

urance, as many of them have lost work in part-time jobs, shift-work or inconsistent work.

Alberta shed 10,000 jobs in January alone and northern

Alberta faces an unemployment rate of 12.4 per cent.

"I can't think of a situation where it's more clear around the need for more accessible and equitable EI system than

what is happening in Alberta right now," said Foster.

Foster said he's concerned the federal government will propose a short-term adjustment to the EI system, not

"
I can't think of a situation where it's more clear around the need for more accessible and equitable EI.

Prof. Jason Foster

substantive reform.

Changes to the system by the former Harper government in 2012 created a tiered system of applicants. Those who submitted EI claims more than once in a five-year period face a more difficult application process.

Gil McGowan, president of the Alberta Federation of Labour, said this unfairly affects intermittent workers in the construction industry who go through phases of work, especially in the economic downturn.

McGowan is pushing for the Liberals' promised full review of the EI system to be moved up from 2017 to this year.

"We need a system that works now," he said.

ELECTORAL REFORM

Vote at 16 mulled

Ryan Tumilty
Metro | Edmonton

Politicians aren't dismissing a recent call by the Edmonton Youth Council to lower the voting age in municipal elections to 16.

Christina Gray, the minister responsible for democratic renewal, said she welcomes the idea and hopes a legislature committee examining electoral reform considers the idea.

"I think that suggestion and any suggestion is welcome. I think that is something that hopefully the committee will have time to renew and discuss," she said.

Mayor Don Iveson also said he's open to the discussion.

"I think it's time to have the debate and I am glad the youth council brought it forward," he said.

Iveson said there's no reason voting age needs to be set in stone. "It's changed before, from 21 down to 18, and I actually think when people are still in school when they're engaged, they have as much of a stake as anyone around some of the decisions council makes."



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City vehicles, including police cruisers, are behind some of the expected cost increases when the carbon tax comes into force beginning next year. COURTESY CITY OF EDMONTON

Carbon tax a \$6M hit to city by 2018

ENVIRONMENT

Cost estimates emerge after climate change plan review



**Ryan
Tumilty**
Metro | Edmonton

Alberta's carbon tax will cost the City of Edmonton about \$6 million a year by 2018.

The cost estimates emerged Tuesday as the city reviewed its own climate change strategy, which looks at dozens of different actions to lower greenhouse gas emissions.

Jim Andrais, program manager of the city energy transition unit, told councillors that the city will pay about \$4 million in 2017, when the carbon tax is \$20 per tonne, and \$6 million when it moves to \$30 per tonne in 2018.

Most of those estimated increases are linked to transportation fuels and heating.

Andrais said the city doesn't know yet if there will be any special exemptions for municipalities.

"The program implementation of that is still behind closed doors at the province," he said.

Andrais added the city plans to reduce the size of its fleet and the size of vehicles.

"The first thing anyone does if they want to reduce consumption is to stop doing things that are unnecessary and downsize things," he said.

Mayor Don Iveson said the levy can push the city to make greener choices.

He said electric buses may be more expensive up front, but they can make a lot more sense if the city is avoiding fuel and the carbon tax.

"The economics of those things improve against avoiding that cost. So, those price signals are helpful for long-term decision making."

ECONOMY

Municipalities hail job-creating Energy East

Stung by criticism in Quebec of the proposed Energy East pipeline, Alberta municipalities are hailing the project's promise of jobs and economic growth.

The Alberta Urban Municipalities Association has written a letter to its sister organizations across Canada seeking their support for Energy East.

The letter cites estimates by the Conference Board of Canada that this project will support over 14,000 jobs annually during a nine-year development

and construction stage," reads an association briefing note about the letter. "The pipeline will also provide \$10 billion in tax revenues to the provinces."

The letter also touts how the pipeline would enable access to markets in Europe and Asia, reduce Canada's dependence on foreign oil and create 3,300 permanent jobs.

Association president Lisa Holmes said Alberta communities don't want to allow naysayers to grab the spotlight on

a project that would help the province as it struggles with an economic crisis.

"We see the impact of our current economic situation on everyone in our communities — our friends, our neighbours, business owners. We need to be a voice for them," Holmes said.

Holmes said the association's main message is that Energy East is so important to Canada's economic future that municipal groups across the country should speak out.

"We are stepping up and saying this is a national project and it needs help. We are hoping that the other provincial associations will see that and will support us in our rallying cry, which is 'Go East,'" she said.

Calgary-based TransCanada Corp.'s pipeline would carry 1.1 million barrels a day of crude from Alberta and Saskatchewan as far east as Saint John, N.B., to serve domestic refineries and international customers.

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Alberta's original carbon levy was \$15 per tonne and applied only to larger emitters.

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Approximately 43% of the province's electricity currently comes from coal-powered sources.

Councillors hold off on Jasper Avenue park land

CITY HALL

Developer's pledges lead to plans being postponed



Ryan Tumilty
Metro | Edmonton

City councillors held off from expropriating land along Jasper Avenue Tuesday, after a developer promised to build a better park than was being proposed — as well as a residential tower.

The land, at the southern end of 96 Street at Jasper Avenue, is part of the city's plan for the Quarters. The city wants to build a park as a lookout across the river valley there, but had to expropriate land to do so.

The owner of that land, Aldritt Land Corporation, asked



This area on the eastern edge of downtown could be seeing an 'urban balcony' overlooking the river valley as well as a new residential tower. KEVIN TUONG/FOR METRO

council to hold off on that while they submit a proposal to redevelop the property.

Sol Rolinger, a lawyer representing the company, said they plan to preserve the park space but also build a tower to bring residents to the community.

"This encompasses a park

and a much more elaborate park, like a High Line Park that you'd find in Manhattan," he said.

"Everybody gets what they want."

The High Line is a park built on a former elevated railway in New York City.

Rolinger said design work is still being completed on the proposal, but they plan to have a connection to the river valley, which the city's plan does not. "It takes people over Grieson Hill Road and into Louis McKinney Park," he said.

Rolinger added they hope

to provide council with a proposal soon.

Council voted to hold off on expropriation until that proposal is heard, or until 2017 if it doesn't come forward.

Mayor Don Iveson said it makes sense to hear the developer out.

"I think there is some value in allowing the application process to play out, to fully understand the proposal," he said.

Coun. Ben Henderson was the lone vote against delay and argued he doesn't want to compromise the proposed park space.

"There was a good reason it was put there and to suddenly give away that end of the Armature and that view of the river valley, which is pivotal to this city, I don't think we should be compromising that."

Henderson said he's willing to hear the proponents, but isn't wild about a residential tower on the site.

"It will be a tough sell to me."

Delay on 'visitable' homes



Alex Boyd
Metro | Edmonton

City councillors will not impose new rules for homes at Blatchford to allow people with disabilities to enter them.

At the urging of the VisAbility Task Force, city administration has been considering rules requiring some housing at Blatchford to include 'visability' features.

A visitable home features a no-step entrance, wider doorways and hallways, and a bathroom on the ground floor to allow a person with a disability to easily visit.

But building this way may increase costs and creates design challenges.

For that reason, councillors questioned whether homebuyers would choose to buy an accessible home at Blatchford for an increased price without first being educated why they might want it. Council set the committee back to work on a pilot project that would display visitable homes to homebuyers and homebuilders.



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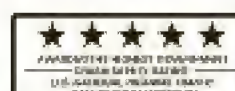
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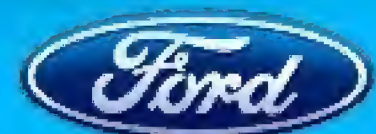
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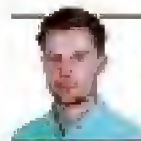


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HEALTH

Midwives rally vs. wait list



Jeremy Simes
For Metro | Calgary

It's going to be a midwifery pool party, minus the birthing.

On Wednesday, families and midwives will take to the Alberta legislature building to tell the government there's a growing waiting list of women seeking midwifery care.

Alberta Health Services and the Alberta Association of Midwives recently struck a deal that lets midwives care for 2,774 families this fiscal year, according to midwives' association president Nicole Matheson.

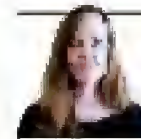
Though the midwives accepted the deal, they've been pressing the government to create a long-term funding model for the practice.

Wednesday's rally will echo the need for a long-term funding model, according to Dana Weatherhead, vice-president of the Association for Safe Alternatives in Childbirth.

Violence on the rise

POLICE

Systemic look needed to cut down domestic abuse: Expert



Samantha Power
For Metro | Edmonton

Domestic assault rates are up eight per cent over the past year, according to the Edmonton Police Service — and some say they point to a need for a different approach.

In 2015, 8,512 occurrences of domestic violence were reported to EPS, compared with 7,849 in 2014.

With a rise in the rate of extreme violence reported last year, the increase could point to a need for different solutions.

Researcher Stephanie Moltesanti said there's a need to move beyond looking at domestic violence on an individual basis, and to think about violence as a public health problem with preventative



Domestic assault rates are increasing in Edmonton, according to Edmonton Police statistics. iStock

solutions.

"Policy interventions have focused on an individual level, reactive approach" Moltesanti said. "But this is structural, embedded in our social and economic systems."

Moltesanti, a professor of public health at the University

of Alberta, researches how access to employment, education, health services and health care factor into the rates of domestic violence.

She said when those are at risk, they can result in increases to domestic violence.

Moltesanti will be looking at the Edmonton numbers to evaluate any potential correlation to the economic downturn.

Government approaches have, nonetheless, been slowly shifting.

The creation of the Status of Women ministry, with a mandate to decrease violence against women and girls, signals an acknowledgement of the problem.

The Alberta government invested \$15 million annually in 2015 to provide programs and counselling for assault survivors.

But Moltesanti would like to see a real shift to solving systemic issues.

"It's a population health problem that impacts everybody," Moltesanti said. "The impact spreads not just for the individual."



This is structural, embedded in our social and economic systems.

Stephanie Moltesanti



POLICE

Anglican priest faces 13 more sexual assault charges, and 18 in total

An Edmonton-area Anglican priest faces 13 additional charges of sexual assault, after four more complainants have come forward with allegations.

Gordon William Dominey, 63, now faces 18 sexual assault charges and another nine charges of gross indecency.

In February, Edmonton Police laid five charges of sexual assault and five charges of gross indecency against Dominey.

The charges were the result of an investigation into allegations of historical sexual assaults occurring at the Edmonton Youth Development Centre in the 1980s.

Dominey had been employed at the incarceration facility from 1985 to 1989.

The initial five complainants were all youths at the time.

METRO

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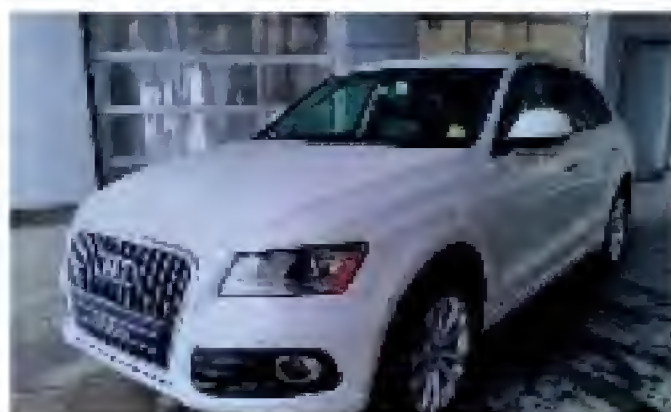


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NORTH OF EXTRAORDINARY

New hope for old museum

HERITAGE

Petition to save building gains momentum in just two days



Alex Boyd
Metro | Edmonton

A petition to save the soon-to-be-replaced Royal Alberta Museum has collected more than 1,200 signatures in just 48 hours.

Alberta Infrastructure is exploring ideas for the future of the structure, including finding new tenants, refreshing the building or — gasp — even tearing it down.

Right now, the province is exploring that last option, putting out a call for design ideas for the “potential redevelopment of the RAM into public green space.”

For June Acorn, who created the petition, that was the last straw.

Acorn said the museum is a fixture in the city she's



June Acorn has started an online petition to save the former home of the Royal Alberta Museum from being razed. KEVIN TUONG/FOR METRO

lived in her entire life.

She took her kids to see the dioramas and more recently, walked the grounds with her husband.

“Aside from the fact that we’re in an economic recession, why would we spend money destroying what we

“**I can’t even believe it’s even being contemplated.**

June Acorn on plans to demolish the building

have?” she said.

“I can’t even believe it’s even being contemplated.”

Acorn started the online petition Sunday, which describes the museum as “a true gem of modernist yet historic Alberta architecture.”

The issue of what to do

with the building has been raised because the museum is moving to its new downtown location, which will open sometime in 2019.

Tracy Larsen, a spokeswoman for Alberta Infrastructure, stresses that deadline — three years away — leaves time to decide what to do with the old RAM.

“The options we could look at are reusing or repurposing the facility, or it could be demolishing or deconstructing it.”

“This proposal is just one possible option,” she said.

Even when the new museum opens, Acorn said she’ll still have a soft spot for the old one.

Her son, scientist and broadcaster John Acorn ‘the Nature Nut,’ rode his bike to the museum as a young teenager, she said.

“It was a comfortable place to go, it was an easy place for kids to go, it wasn’t intimidating,” she said.

“And it sounds like our new ‘world class’ museum, it isn’t going to be the sort of place a young boy could ride to on his bike.”

‘JEWEL BOX’

Museum was a tribute for Canada’s 100th birthday

Planning for what was then known as the Provincial Museum of Alberta started in the mid-1960s.

Australian architect Raymond O. Harrison was hired not only to build it, but hire staff and stock the building with exhibits.

It opened in 1967 and cost about \$10 million.

According to architect Shafraaz Kaba, the building’s shape was used to mimic a “jewel box” to protect the contents inside. He calls the RAM an “incredible” Centennial project to celebrate Canada’s 100th birthday at the time, notable for its use of Tyndall stone, a cream-coloured limestone quarried outside Winnipeg. The stone “used every imaginable type of expression, whether it was rough hewn and split-face to smooth finishes, to show the material’s incredible texture, including embedded fossils,” he said.

Kaba added the building’s interior also has luxury no longer seen in government building. ALEX BOYD/METRO

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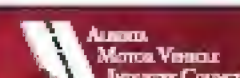
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City 'missing out' on growth in film

MEDIA

Local industry figure sees hope in review of commission

Samantha Power
For Metro | Edmonton

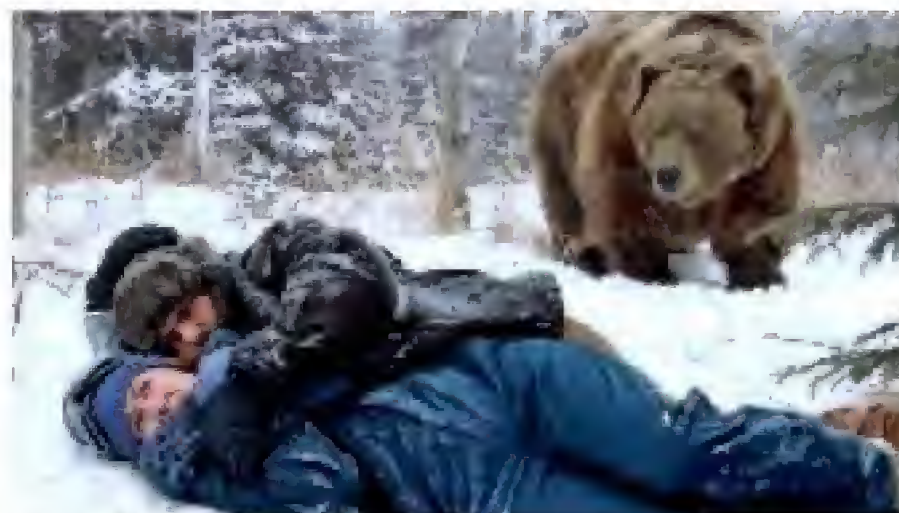
Edmonton isn't capitalizing on growth in Canada's film industry, but some say change is on the way.

The city has been without a film commissioner for a year, while Canada's film industry has grown by six per cent in the same period, according to new Statistics Canada data.

"We are definitely missing out," said Bill Evans, executive director of the Alberta Media Production Industries.

But Evans is hopeful a city review of the film commission will create a co-ordinated approach to getting filmmakers' attention.

A motion passed Feb. 2 re-



Jewel Staite, Shawn Roberts and Whopper the bear in *40 Below and Falling*, directed by Edmonton's Dylan Pearce. CONTRIBUTED

quired the Edmonton Arts Council and the Edmonton Economic Development Corporation to look into a preferred model to replace the film commission.

Evans said a diverse range of members of the city's "screen industries," including the founders of Bioware, have been included in that discussion.

"That's a real strength in this city," Evans said of digital game design.

Evans would like to see the

city build on its other strengths and advocate its unique locations for films. The now-empty Remand Centre or the Camsell Hospital may be ideal shooting locations for foreign service productions, he said.

The province is also considering how to help.

"The government is currently reviewing all mechanisms to support the sector," said Jeff Brinton, executive director of cultural industries.



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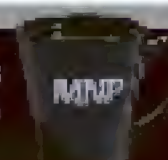
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Canada's new target

Syrian crisis sparks Liberal government into significant shift in immigration policy, with families and refugees moving to the head of the queue and skilled labour missing out

Syrian refugees are driving a shift in Canada's immigration plan for 2016 as the Liberal government seeks to admit record numbers of new permanent residents while backing away from a previous focus on skilled labour.

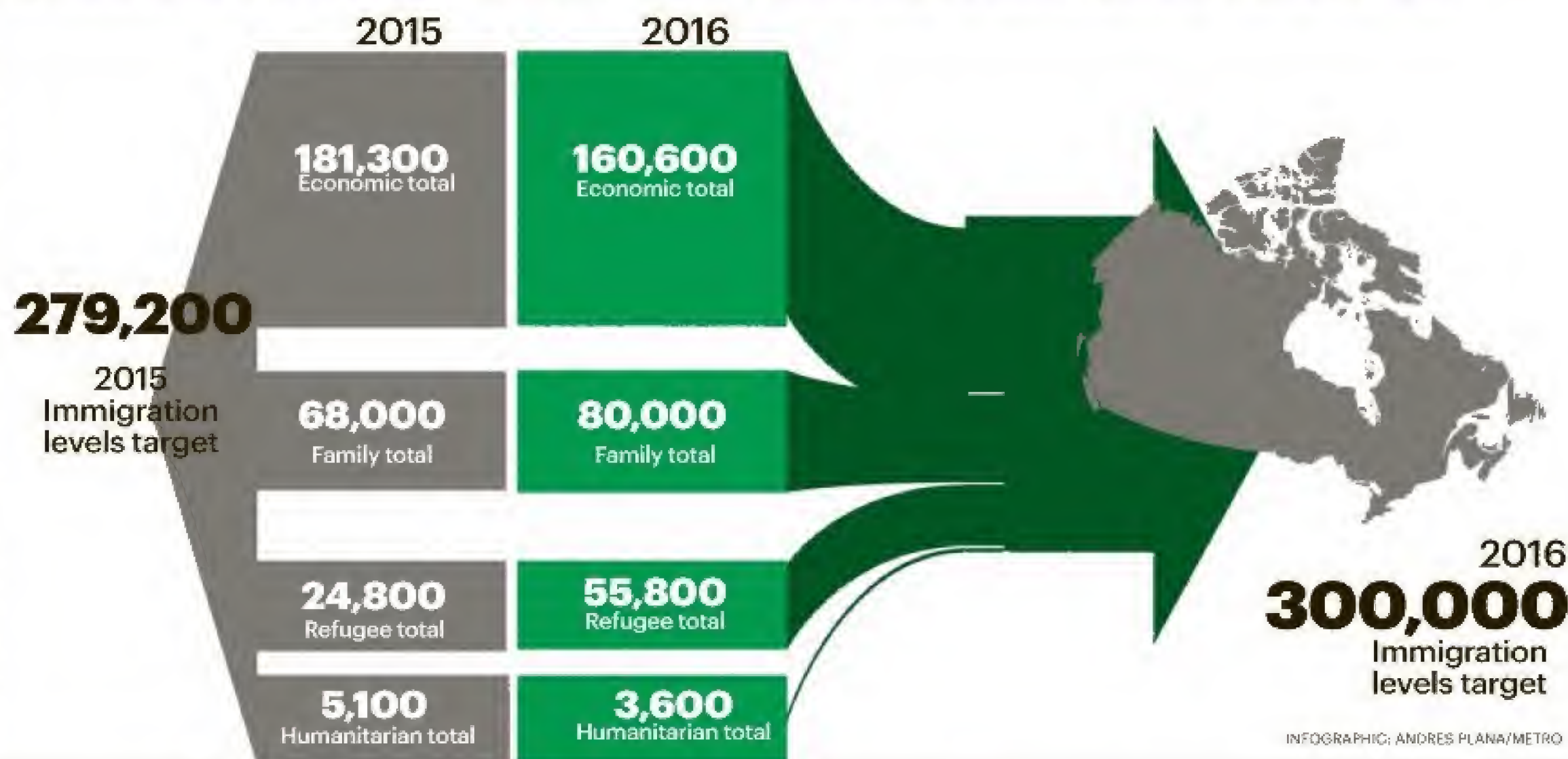
Bringing in 25,000 government-assisted Syrian refugees by the end of this year has maxed out the immigration stream, leaving the private sector to bring in vulnerable people from elsewhere in the world.

The Liberals say they will triple the number of spots for private sponsors, part of a near-doubling of the humanitarian stream of the immigration program overall.

Immigration Minister John McCallum said the plan is grounded in Canada's tradition as a welcoming country.

"It outlines a significant shift towards reuniting more families, building our economy and upholding Canada's humanitarian traditions," McCallum said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



WASHINGTON VISIT

Trudeau developing 'bond' with Obama

The White House says a special relationship is developing with Canada's new prime minister — a bond that will be reinforced this week with a series of bilateral agreements and a rare black-tie dinner.

Justin Trudeau arrives Wednesday for a three-day visit to the U.S. capital — a place he's

unusually well-known for a Canadian politician — with the first prime ministerial state dinner in 19 years as its centrepiece.

An administration official described a unique alignment of priorities between President Barack Obama and the prime minister, who will be hosted by the White House, the State Department, American University and a gathering of think-tanks.

"I think there is a developing special relationship between this president and prime minister," Mark Feierstein said.

"They're both young leaders with similar visions, both have a progressive vision."

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Trudeau and Obama agree on key issues. THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

History as new bank note to feature Canadian woman

When the next series of Canadian bank notes rolls off the presses in 2018, one of them will, for the first time ever, bear the portrait of a woman other than the Queen — and nominations are open now.

Terry Fox's father dead at 80

Roland Fox, the father of iconic marathon runner Terry Fox, has died at the age of 80.

A statement on the Terry Fox Foundation website says he died Tuesday afternoon.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



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REFUGEE CRISIS

Greek border shut, stranding migrants

Despair and confusion spread through the camp at the Greek-Macedonian border Tuesday as thousands of stranded refugees were forced to acknowledge that the route through Europe that had carried their hopes and dreams was now shut.

The dozens of people crammed together at the front of the line to the border crossing looked at the closed gate and razor wire in disbelief. One young Syrian muttered he had been in the tent at the crossing for five days without sleeping. It was his 15th day at the Idomeni refugee camp.

One woman broke down, crying and screaming as she held her baby in her arms while a man tried to calm and comfort her. Refugees asked reporters what had happened in Brussels, and asked what they could or should do next.

European Union leaders who held a summit with Turkey said early Tuesday they hoped they had reached the outlines for a possible deal with Ankara to return thousands of migrants to Turkey, and said they were confident a full agreement could be reached at a summit next week.

They also said the "irregular

14K

Approximate number of people who have waited for days and weeks at the refugee camp in Idomeni.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

flows of migrants along the Western Balkans route have now come to an end."

Nobody has crossed through the Idomeni border gate since early Monday morning. The nail in the coffin for the main Balkan migration route came late Tuesday evening, when Serbia's Interior Ministry said Slovenia will demand valid EU visas at its borders as of midnight Tuesday. That means Serbia will act accordingly and close its borders with Macedonia and Bulgaria for those who do not have valid documents.

Nearly 14,000 people, who all risked their lives to get to Greece, have waited for days and weeks in the cold, rain and mud at the overflowing refugee camp in Idomeni, ripping branches off trees to use as firewood.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



A Syrian woman holds a baby, sitting in a tent at the transit centre for refugees. BORIS GRDANOSKI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Escaped tiger causes uproar on Qatar motorway

Talk about a hair-raising commute. Drivers in the energy-rich Mideast nation of Qatar got a surprise Monday when an escaped tiger was seen prowling among cars on a major motorway.

Police said they were looking into footage circulating on social media of the tiger making its way between vehicles. Other images showed a man in a white robe holding the big cat on a chain, suggesting it had been recaptured.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Charitable Norwegian donates hidden cash

A Norwegian real estate broker is being praised after he found almost \$40,000 hidden underneath the fireplace of his new apartment and donated all of it to a charity called Kreftforeningen.

Vemund Thorkildsen told The Associated Press on Tuesday that he made the discovery two weeks ago. "At first we started to celebrate like if we had won the lottery," said Thorkildsen, 27. "But then I thought, 'This is not my money.'" THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton speaks during a rally in Detroit, Michigan. CHARLIE NEIBERGALL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump campaigns in Madison, Mississippi. BRYNN ANDERSON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Trump keeps grip on polls, wins Michigan

PRESIDENTIAL RACE

Clinton sweeps Mississippi but Sanders causes upset in N.E.

Bernie Sanders breathed new life into his White House bid with a crucial win in Michigan's primary Tuesday night, chipping away at Hillary Clinton's dominance in the Democratic presidential race. Republican Donald Trump swept to victory in both Michigan and Mississippi, overcoming fierce efforts to blunt his momentum.

Even with Sanders' win, Clinton and Trump moved closer to a general election face-off. Clinton breezed to an easy victory in Mississippi,

propelled by overwhelming support from black voters, and she now has more than half the delegates she needs to clinch the Democratic nomination. Trump, too, padded his lead over Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, his closest rival.

The front-runners turned their sights on November as they reveled in their victories.

"We are better than what we are being offered by the Republicans," Clinton declared.

In a nod toward the kind of traditional politics he's shunned, Trump emphasized the importance of helping Republican senators and House members get elected in November. Having entered Tuesday's contests facing a barrage of criticism from rival candidates and outside groups, he also delighted in overcoming

the attacks.

"Every single person who has attacked me has gone down," Trump said at one of his Florida resorts. He was flanked by tables packed with his branded retail products, including steaks, bottled water and wine, and defended his business record more thoroughly than he outlined his policy proposals for the country.

Sanders, meanwhile, said Michigan signalled that his campaign "is strong in every part of the country, and frankly we believe our strongest areas are yet to happen."

While a handful of recent losses to Texas Sen. Ted Cruz have raised questions about Trump's durability, Tuesday's contests marked another lost opportunity for rivals to slow his momentum. Next week's

+ MAD MONEY

Voters say economy, inequality important

The economy ranked high on the list of concerns for voters heading to the polls in Michigan and Mississippi. At least 8 in 10 voters in each party's primary said they were worried about where the American economy is heading, according to early exit polls.

winner-take-all primaries in Ohio and Florida loom especially large as perhaps the last chance to stop Trump short of a long-shot contested convention fight. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

OUTBREAK

WHO reports 'alarming' Zika discovery

Sexual transmission of the Zika virus is more common than previously thought, the World Health Organization said Tuesday, citing reports from several countries.

After a meeting of its emergency committee on Tuesday, the UN health agency also said there is increasing evidence that a spike in disturbing birth defects and neurological problems are caused by Zika, which is mostly

spread by mosquito bites. When WHO declared the explosive outbreak in the Americas to be a global emergency last month, it said that the evidence that Zika was responsible was only circumstantial.

WHO Director-General Dr. Margaret Chan said "reports and investigations in several countries strongly suggest that sexual transmission of the virus is more com-

mon than previously assumed." The U.S. is investigating more than a dozen possible cases of Zika in people who may have been infected through sex.

"All of this news is alarming," Chan said. Dr. Bruce Aylward, who is directing WHO's response to Zika, said the cases seen so far of sexual transmission of Zika have been from men to women.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

31

Zika is also now spreading to new countries, WHO said. It noted local transmission has now been reported in 31 countries across Latin America and the Caribbean.

Emojis getting some respect

COMMUNICATION

High point when an emoji was picked as word of year

If emojis could express their meteoric rise into the lexicon of virtual language, it might start with a surprised face, followed by thumbs up, and a trophy. After years of ridicule in popular culture, the famous international registry of smiley faces, animals and numerous other objects is finally getting some respect.

"In many ways, communicating informally with each other on the Internet, with just words, is like trying to talk in a monotone with your hands behind your back," says Gretchen McCulloch, a Montreal-based linguist who has studied the rise of emojis and how people use them to en-

hance communication.

Created in the late 1990s by Japanese mobile phone carriers as a marketing hook, emojis never really landed on the radar of North Americans until Apple's iPhone and Android smartphones incorporated the cartoon characters in 2010.

Last year marked a clear zeitgeist moment. The prestigious Oxford Dictionaries chose the "face with tears of joy" emoji as word of the year, leading to an uproar in linguistic circles.

It was an undeniable sign that emojis had reached a higher level of status after years of being widely dismissed as a quirky smartphone feature used mostly by teenagers.

Celebrities and brands have hopped on the emoji bandwagon, including Kim Kardashian — who launched her own "Kimoji" app with cartoon renderings of herself — and Tim Hortons, which released its own batch of "Eh-mojis."

Emojis have also posed a ma-

jor challenge under the law. A New York grand jury was recently asked to decide whether the combination of an emoji police officer and an emoji gun was considered a threat to police.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



After years of being dismissed as a quirky smartphone feature used mostly by teenagers, the famous international registry of smiley faces, animals and other objects has reached a higher level of status.

ISTOCK

IN BRIEF

Biofuels face headwinds

Low oil prices, end of a biofuels incentive program, competition from U.S. imports, lack of infrastructure, and stricter fuel efficiency regulations are expected to lead to a 38 per cent plunge in Canada's biofuels production, predicts the International Energy Agency. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Danier sell-off begins

Store closing sales start Tuesday at the remaining Danier leather stores and outlets in Canada.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

market minute

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NATURAL GAS: \$1.712 US (+2.2¢)	
DOW JONES: 16,364.10 (-109.85)	

CONSTRUCTION

Multiple-unit dwellings fuelling pace of housing starts

The number of homes that started to get built in Canada last month picked up, boosted by a jump in multiple-unit dwellings such as condominiums, apartments and townhouses.

But the housing market in the oilpatch continued to struggle as the rate of housing starts in the Prairies headed lower while other major regions of the country saw increases.

"Of all the Canadian economic indicators where the

national tally hides the real story, this one is right up there," BMO Capital Markets senior economist Robert Kavcic said in a note to clients.

"On one end of the spectrum, residential construction activity is in outright recession, while on the other, new construction has flared well above past highs."

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp. reported the seasonally adjusted annual pace for housing starts in February increased to 212,594 units, up from 165,071 in January. Economists had expected an annual pace of 180,000, according to Thomson Reuters.

The increase came as multiple-unit urban starts increased by 46.0 per cent

to 138,774 units, while single-detached urban starts increased by 6.1 per cent to 61,457 units. Rural starts were estimated at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 12,363.

However, the regional figures showed the differences across the country.

The pace of urban housing starts in February increased in British Columbia,

Ontario, Quebec and Atlantic Canada while decreasing in the Prairies.

CMHC noted that housing starts were trending at a four-year low in the Prairies, where low oil prices have weakened consumer confidence, while starts were trending at an eight-year high in British Columbia.

TD Bank economist Diana Petramala noted that follow-

ing a weak start to the year, the housing starts have popped back, topping expectations. However, she noted that an unusually warm winter in many parts of the country may be boosting the data.

"Construction normally comes to a near-halt in the winter, but some construction that would have been otherwise delayed until the spring may have gone ahead given the balmy January and February," she said in a research note.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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THE QUESTION

I took credit for someone else's donation to my boss's charity run — but she was pressuring all of us to give. She does it every year. Was I wrong?

Dear Ellen,
Every year, when the time comes for her charity run, my manager starts dropping hints and directs us to the website with her donor page. I give lots to charity, and feel we shouldn't be asked to support her causes. Anyway, this year, she and I had a one-on-one meeting where she said, with a sigh, that she was way behind in her fundraising but that "of course, that's not your problem." There was an awkward pause, which I stupidly filled by saying I'd donate. I was mad at myself, but meant to do it — until an hour later when she sent me an email telling me how much she appreciated my donation. Apparently, as I stewed at my desk, someone else had donated anonymously. I was ticked off enough that I replied "No problem! Good luck!" Was I wrong?

Feeling Extorted, Toronto

Dear F.E.,

Strictly speaking, I cannot condone your lying about having made a donation to your boss's charity. Nor do good manners permit taking credit for another person's generosity.

But I can certainly understand your motivation.

Though it doesn't excuse your behaviour, the fact

It's okay to ask friends, relatives and strangers for support, but not in a context when people don't feel free to say no.

is your boss's behaviour is equally inexcusable. Her practice of "dropping hints" about her charity while directing you to her website has all the subtlety of a brickbat aimed straight at your next performance review. It's OK to ask friends, relatives and strangers for support, but it's not OK in the context of a power relationship like the one she has with you; i.e., when people don't feel free to say no.

By the way, it's commendable that you already "give lots to charity," but it's irrelevant as to whether you should give to hers. We all have our own pet causes, and how we choose to spend our disposable income is nobody else's business.

Of course, it's not always

cut and dried. Theoretically, I stick to my own chosen charities and feel justified in waving off solicitors for other organizations. But I also set aside a certain amount for causes I don't much care about, because I like or care about the people who are begging on their behalf.

(As tax season looms, note that tax credits are available for registered charities, which never hurts.)

For Feeling Extorted and other oppressed workers at the mercy of exploitative managers, however, the choices are limited.

You can smile through gritted teeth and donate, and try not to waste too much time wallowing in fuming resentment, which is very

bad for your health.

You can ignore the boss's "hints" and not donate, then try not to waste too much time worrying about whether she'll hold it against you, which would be very bad for your career.

Or, if you simply refuse to brook a double-bind, you can heed the advice of Frank Underwood from *House of Cards*: "If you don't like how the table is set, flip over the table." In other words, sign up for your own charity run, so that you can tell your boss — truthfully — that you'd love to donate to her run, and that you sincerely hope she'll donate to yours!

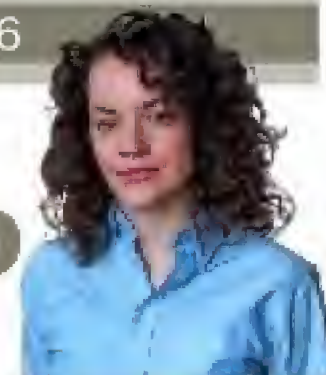
Need advice?
Email Ellen:
scene@metronews.ca



©Ani Castillo

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metroview



Americans love Trudeau, and we still really, really care

Always the wooer, never the wooed, Canada, I mean, when it comes to the U.S.

All week, Canadian media, swooning over Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's rare (steak?) state dinner at the White House on Thursday, have noted what a "high honour" the evening is, how it shows that "Canada matters" and promises to be an "evening of awe."

U.S. President Barack Obama sees himself in Trudeau, we're told. Plus: The Washington Post even called Trudeau the "anti-Trump" (!) — high establishment praise and a moniker Trudeau later ironically embodied when he refused to dump on Trump in an interview.

We're loving the attention — the Vogue profile, Sunday's 60 Minutes interview, which Americans read as advertisement to emigrate here; not that they needed one after Googling en masse "how to move to Canada" on Super Tuesday. The U.S. coverage, though concerned with Trudeau's aesthetic, is far meatier than the usual Five Cool People You Didn't Know Were Canadian or This Hip Street In This Canadian City Is So Hip.

But coming from a nation that still assumes we're all lumberjacks, it's not really that flattering, is it? The Google-search story was roundly treated as a joke: Move to Canada? Things really are bad! We're not an aspiration

so much as a last-ditch escape hatch. They're not drawn to Canada — they're drawn to the absence of America.

In my experience, Americans generally view Canada as a proverbial backwoods, a wild terrain with rustic inhabitants.

Which is why Trudeau, in that 60 Minutes interview, admitted Canadians, "like to think that, you know, Americans will pay attention to us from time to time, too."

What lofty goals, Mr. Trudeau. Americans do like him for his poignantly familiar story: He is handsome and forthright and rose to power by being a good guy, a classic trope of American culture rarely seen in real life. But I doubt the interest will plunge much past his shiny surface to our reality.

To be clear: Neither Trudeau nor I are anti-American. Hell, he told the Huffington Post that the U.S. is "the greatest democracy in the world."

But I can like America and Americans (which I do, greatly), and even love some of them without assuming, much less requiring, their reverse-interest in the true-north-strong-and-free.

Besides, while the state dinner will be good for Trudeau, and even a little good for us, the important relationship is no longer with Obama, it's with his successor. And if that (shudder) is Donald Trump, we know who'll pick the fight.

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Step-by-step spicy tuna rolls

RECIPE

Throw out the takeout menu and make your own at home

The California roll may have been the first inside-out roll, but the spicy tuna roll is quickly becoming the most popular. The combination of tuna and mayonnaise is a classic in Western culture, which may help to explain the appeal of this chile-spiked version of uramaki (inside-out roll). In this recipe we demonstrate forming the roll without the use of a mat (free rolling).

When making inside-out rolls, cover your mat in plastic wrap to avoid sticking and aid cleanup.

Spicy Tuna Roll

Makes 1 roll (6 pieces)

Ingredients

- 1/2 sheet nori (7 by 4 inches/17.5 by 10 cm) 1/2
- 1/3 cup Sushi Rice 75 ml
- Toasted sesame seeds (preferably a mix of black and white)
- 1 tsp Spicy Mayo (see recipe on right) 5 ml
- 1 1/2 tsp thinly sliced green onion, white 7 ml and green parts
- 2 strips tuna, cut into pieces each 2 about 3 1/4 by 1/2 by 1/2 inch (8 x 1 x 1 cm; about 2 oz/60 g)
- Pickled ginger (Gari; see recipe below)
- Wasabi paste
- Soy sauce

Equipment

- Wet towel
- Nonstick gloves, optional
- Small bowl with ice water
- Bamboo rolling mat (makisu), covered in plastic wrap
- Yanagiba, slicing knife or chef's knife

Directions

1. Place nori on board, shiny side down, with the longer side facing you.
2. Lightly wet your hands in the ice water, shaking or clapping off any excess.
3. Leaving a 1/2-inch (1 cm) border at the top of the nori, place rice on sheet, right of center.
4. Using your fingers and pressing down and toward the right, spread rice to about 1 inch (2.5 cm) wide. Repeat Step 2.

5. Using the tips of your fingers, continue to spread rice evenly over nori so remainder of nori is covered with rice, leaving 1/2 inch (0.5 cm) visible at the bottom.

6. Sprinkle sesame seeds evenly over surface of rice.

7. Using the back of a spoon, spread spicy mayonnaise across center of nori.

8. Flip nori over, rice side down, placing the uncovered edge toward you.

9. Sprinkle mayonnaise evenly with green onion.

10. Lay sliced tuna evenly over onion. Place your thumbs under the bottom of the nori (the edge closest to you).

11. With your hands cupped over the roll, gently squeeze on either side to begin to form the roll.

12. Using your fingers to hold the fillings in place and rolling away from you, roll nori over fillings.

13. Keeping pressure on the roll, continue to roll away from you until roll is sealed.

14. Using your middle and index fingers, gently tap on each end of the roll to ensure that ingredients have not slipped out and are flush with the nori.

15. Confirm roll seam side down (this will help ensure that the roll will not burst open when handled).

16. Place mat over roll.

17. With your thumbs on the side toward you, pinkies on the far side and other fingers cupped over the top, give the roll a light squeeze, forming a squared cylinder.

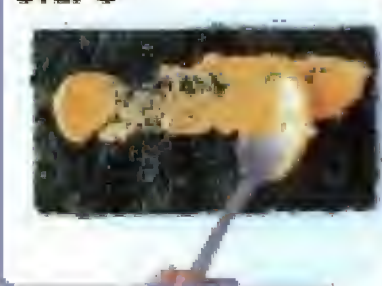
18. Remove mat and slice roll.

19. Arrange cut pieces upright on a serving plate. Garnish with wasabi, ginger and a small dipping bowl of soy sauce.

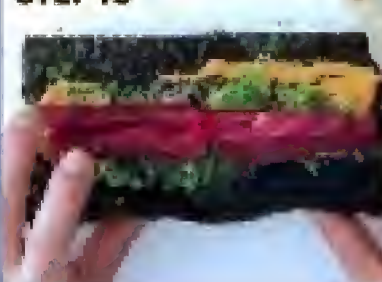
STEP 4



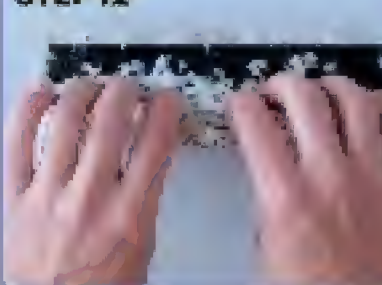
STEP 8



STEP 10



STEP 12



SUSHI GINGER GARI

Makes: about 2 cups (500 ml)

Ingredients

- 2 x 5-inch (12.5 cm) long pieces 2
- gingerroot (about 14 oz/425 g), peeled and washed
- Water
- Salt
- 1 cup Japanese rice vinegar 250 ml
- 3/4 cup granulated sugar 175 ml

Directions

1. On a cutting board, using a chef's knife or usuba, cut ginger into very thin slices. (If

you prefer, use a mandoline or peeler instead.)

2. In a large pot of boiling salted water, blanch ginger slices for 30 seconds. Drain and transfer to jar.

3. In a small saucepan, bring vinegar, 1 cup (250 ml) water, sugar and 1 tsp (5 ml) salt to a boil, stirring until the sugar is dissolved.

4. Pour over ginger, then tighten lid. Allow to cool to room temperature. Transfer to refrigerator and let marinate for at least 3 days (see Tips). Pickled ginger will keep in an airtight container in the refrigerator for up to a year.

RECIPE

Spicy Mayo

Makes 1 1/4 cups (300 ml)

Ingredients

- 1 cup mayonnaise (see Tips below) 250 ml
- 3 Tbsp chile paste (see Tips) 45 ml
- 1 tsp Japanese toasted sesame oil 5 ml
- 1 tsp freshly squeezed lemon juice 5 ml

• Japanese chili flakes, such as ichimi or shichimi, optional

Directions

1. In a bowl, whisk together mayonnaise, chile paste, sesame oil and lemon juice, until combined. Add chili flakes to taste (if using). Use immediately or transfer to an airtight container and refrigerate for up to 1 month.

Tips

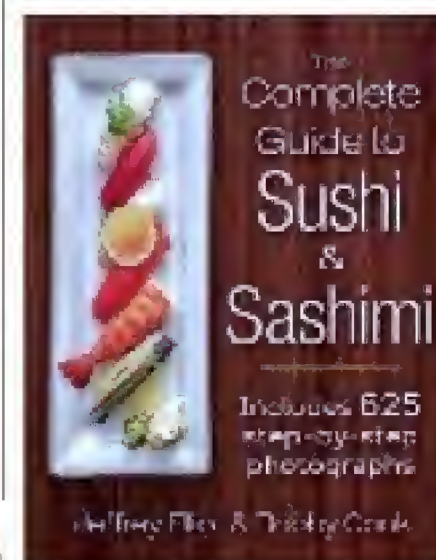
- Use your favorite mayonnaise — Kewpie, Hellman's or even homemade. If you are using Kewpie mayonnaise, make sure you are not serving it to anyone with a sensitivity to MSG.
- Any Asian hot sauce or chile paste, such as Sriracha, sambal oelek, tobanjan or kochujang, works well in this recipe.
- If you are heat sensitive, use less chile paste. If you are a heat seeker, increase the quantity or add the chili flakes.



SUBSTITUTION

Don't like tuna? You can sub salmon, yellowtail, scallops or white fish.

If you prefer, you can chop up the fish or cut into cubes and combine it with the spicy mayonnaise. CONTRIBUTED



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LEAP INTO SPRING WITH A CITRUSY SALAD AND BRAISED RABBIT

Brighten your meals with these dishes that will transport you into the season ahead TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Mint, beet and fennel salad with chili-citrus vinaigrette

For the vinaigrette
Makes 1/2 cup dressing.

Beets and fennel are winter-time favourites when drizzled with olive oil and roasted to perfection in the oven. You can find fennel year-round, but it's at its best during colder months so consider this a farewell to fennel.

The addition of fresh mint leaves serves as a teaser to all the tasty things about to sprout from the ground while beets remind you of what's still growing beneath it.

Ingredients

- Juice of 1/2 large orange
- Zest of 1 large orange
- 2 Tbsp olive oil
- 1 tsp white wine vinegar
- 1/4 tsp dried chili flakes
- Salt and pepper, to taste

Directions

1. Whisk together all ingredients in a bowl. Serve immediately or refrigerate in an airtight container for up to a week.

For the salad
Makes 4 servings.

Ingredients

- 6-8 small beets, peeled and thinly sliced
- 1 large fennel bulb, washed and thinly sliced
- 1/2 large orange, peel removed and cut into bite-sized segments
- 1/3 cup fresh mint leaves
- 1/2 cup chili-citrus vinaigrette
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- Chili flakes, to taste

Directions

1. Toss beets, fennel, orange segments and mint in large mixing bowl. Pour in vinaigrette and toss to coat evenly. Add salt, pepper and chili flakes to taste.

2. Transfer to serving bowl. Let marinate for 10 minutes before serving.

Braised rabbit with bow tie pasta, peas and creamy walnut sauce

Makes 4 servings.

It might sound morbid to cook rabbit during the month of Easter, but once you've had

sweet and tender rabbit meat you'll understand why Elmer Fudd spent all those years hunting that single creature. Here, the mascot of springtime is slow-cooked, tossed in a light but creamy walnut sauce and dressed with vibrant green peas. Have the butcher take the rabbit apart for you. If you are averse to cooking wascally wabbit, substitute four whole bone-in chicken legs with the skin removed.

Ingredients

- 2 Tbsp olive oil
- 1 3-lb whole rabbit, head and ribs removed, legs and saddle separated
- 2 cups no-salt-added chicken broth
- 1 cup evaporated milk
- 1 cup crushed walnuts, plus more for garnish
- 3 minced garlic cloves
- 2 1/2 cups dried bow tie pasta
- 1 cup frozen green peas
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- Chopped mint leaves, for garnish

Directions

1. In a large pan, heat oil over medium heat. Sear rabbit until golden brown on all

sides. Season with salt and pepper. Turn heat down to low. Add chicken broth. Cover and let cook on gentle simmer for 1 hour, or until meat is cooked and fork tender.

2. Remove rabbit from pan. Shred meat using two forks. Discard bones. Set meat aside.

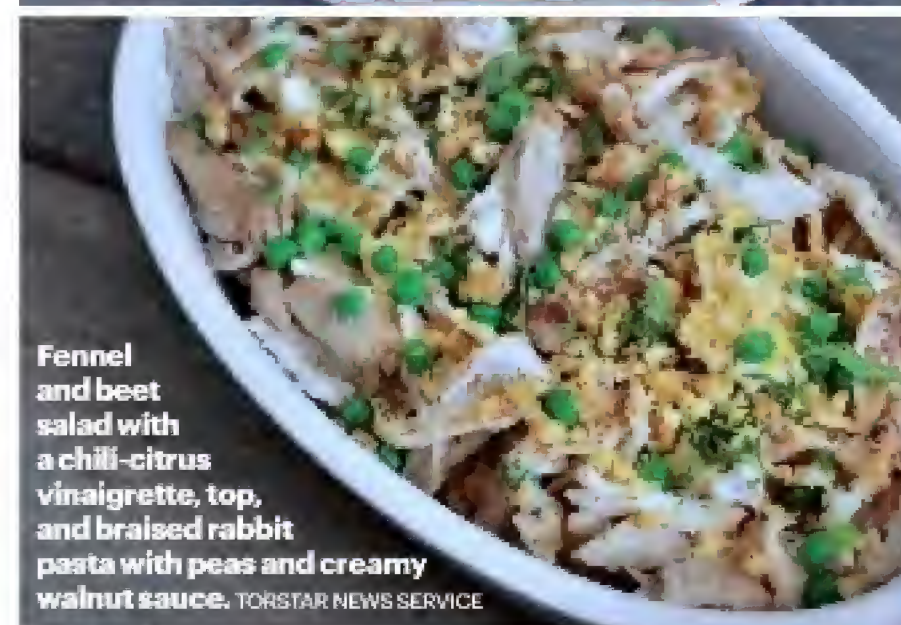
3. Transfer remaining broth to blender. Add milk, walnuts and garlic. Blend until everything has emulsified. Set aside.

4. Bring large pot of salted water to roaring boil over medium-high heat. Cook pasta according to box instructions or until al dente. Remove pasta to bowl with slotted spoon.

5. Bring water back to a roaring boil in same pot. Add frozen peas and cook for 1 minute, or until peas are defrosted. Drain and rinse peas under cold water.

6. In a large skillet over medium heat, toss cooked pasta, peas, walnut sauce and rabbit meat together. Add salt and pepper, to taste. Transfer to serving bowl. Garnish with more crushed walnuts and mint, if using.

7. Serve immediately.



Fennel and beet salad with a chili-citrus vinaigrette, top, and braised rabbit pasta with peas and creamy walnut sauce. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



ROSE REISMAN THE SAVVY EATER

THIS WEEK: Frozen pizza

Frozen 'za can be a quick meal in a pinch, but choose carefully!

PICK THIS

Ristorante Thin Crust Pepperoni Pizza (1/4 Pizza)

Calories 220
Fat 11g
Sodium 430 mg



SKIP THIS

Delissio Rising Crust 3 Meat Pizza (1/4 pizza)

Calories 500
Fat 16 g
Sodium 1200 mg



HERE'S WHY

Equivalent almost one large bag of Lays Classic Potato Chips in sodium

Cutting back on those thick crusts and meaty toppings on your pizza makes a big difference to your heart and waistline. The additional sausage and beef toppings combined with a thick crust raise the sodium to astronomical levels — half your daily quota! You can still enjoy pepperoni in moderation, but stick to a thin crust and you'll take off half the fat and over 2.5 times the sodium. A better pick any way you slice it!



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THE CHECKLIST 2016 HONDA PILOT

THE BASICS

Type. Five-door, FWD or AWD, seven or eight-seat, midsize crossover

Engines (hp). 3.5-litre V6 (280)

Transmissions. Six-speed automatic, nine-speed automatic

Base price. \$35,490 (not including \$1,827 for PDI & Freight)

COOL FEATURES

- New standard infotainment system features Android OS.
- V6 now features direct injection, and can shut down one bank of cylinders.
- Honda Sensing safety features includes Collision Mitigation and more.



INTERIOR PHOTOS MIKE GOETZ/FOR METRO; ALL OTHERS HANDOUT

POINTS

- Seven-seat configuration features second-row captain chairs, which can be heated.
- New AWD system can adjust engine torque to various wheels, and features Normal, Mud, Sand and Snow modes.
- New satellite linked navigation system.

MARKET POSITION

- Couldn't be more targeted toward big, busy families.
- New-generation styling and technologies designed to make Pilot sleeker and more comfortable.
- One of the bigger "mid-size" crossovers.

THE COMPETITION



Hyundai Santa Fe XL
Base price: \$31,099



Toyota Highlander
Base price: \$33,555



Ford Flex
Base price: \$31,799

REVIEW

Pilot delivers value pack of convenience, comfort

Mike Goetz

For Metro Canada



The previous Honda Pilot featured a squared-off and rugged SUV vibe, which didn't quite resonate with its intended target — large families with lots of kid chauffeuring on the schedule.

So for this all-new-for 2016 version, Honda re-positioned Pilot to be less masculine, and with more priority on family comfort and safety. While more rounded and sleeker, the Pilot is still one of the roomier mid-size crossovers, with a legitimate third row, and eight seats. If you don't need to carry more than seven, definitely go with second-row captain chairs, which keep siblings from encroaching on each other's territories, for better family harmony. They are also heatable and slide for fairly easy entry into the third row. Like all third rows, Pilot's is low to the ground, but wide and comfortable enough for three smaller humans.

Climb into the driver's seat, and you'll be impressed by the vast array of new features and excellent outward visibility, the latter helped by super thin front pillars, and big windows all around. Dominating the front space is Pilot's new standard touchscreen infotainment sys-

tem. It looks good, sounds good, and is packed with solid technology, but I found it required too much brain activity to do most anything. It will have you soon running to the few "actual" buttons on the steering wheel, and voice command. More new tech that takes getting used to, is the "drive by wire" gear selector, which is packaged with the optional and all-new nine-speed automatic.

Pilot's only powerplant is the 3.5-litre V6, which has been recently endowed with lots of technology — direct injection, auto stop-start, i-VTEC, and cylinder de-activation. As such, and with the new multi-speed transmissions, the new Pilot is quite fuel efficient for its size. The engine is also super smooth. Front-wheel drive versions are available, but most potential customers will opt for AWD, and Honda has seriously upgraded Pilot's AWD system, with selectable modes (Normal, Mud, Sand and Snow), and torque vectoring.

Combined with its silky and quiet engine, and comfortable ride, the Pilot is very soothing on the road. All the modern safety features you can think of are standard — or optional. I particularly like how often Honda's Lane Watch helps you in everyday driving. Note, however, that Blind Spot and Rear Cross monitoring are only available on the top-end model.

The Pilot is not too engaging to steer. But Honda probably figures you just want to relax when you're driving your clan to their required locations, be they a soccer field, the orthodontist, or a kingdom far, far away.

RIMAC AUTOMOBILI

Electric supercar wins young Croatian inventor fame

He's the name behind the world's first electric supercar, winning international plaudits for his ingenuity.

But for Croatia's 28-year-old Mate Rimac, it all started as a hobby in his garage. A keen techie since high school, Rimac was racing an old BMW when he blew the engine and decided to turn the car into an electric one starting with pieces he bought on the Internet.

A decade later, his firm Rimac Automobili is becoming a global leader in electric vehicle technology, selling Concept One super-

cars for 850,000 euros (\$923,000) each and giving a much-needed boost to Croatia's start-up scene.

"We want to be the best in the world in what we do and we are changing the world," Rimac told AFP in his factory showroom in the small town of Sveta Nedelja, near the Croatian capital.

The confident but modest entrepreneur was named by Politico Europe in December as one of 28 people across the continent who are "shaping, shaking and stirring Europe."

But mastering the complex technology of electric sports cars

and winning financing was no easy task — especially in a small country of 4.3 million people with no automotive industry.

Rimac formed the company in 2009 when he realised there was not much left of the original vehicle he had transformed, and the aim was to build an electric supercar from scratch.

Motor show success

The company unveiled the Concept One at the 2011 Frankfurt Motor Show, where nobody expected a small Croatian firm to showcase an electric car that

could reach 100 kilometres per hour in a staggering 2.8 seconds.

Last week at the Geneva International Motor Show, Rimac introduced the production version of the car.

Many expected Rimac's success would lead him to move somewhere else, such as Silicon Valley, Germany or Italy. But instead he has kept the business in Croatia, a country slowly emerging from six years of recession.

"I want to do it here... I'm stubborn," he said. "I think it is possible, I mean we are doing very well." AFP



Mate Rimac and his Concept One model. DENIS LOVROVIC / AFP

The 2016 Mercedes GLE Coupe

As a competitor to the BMW X6, the new Mercedes-Benz GLE Coupe joins the GLE wagon. With a sloped hatchback design, the GLE Coupe obviously trades cargo room for style and sportiness. It is perhaps no less capable than the GLE wagon, at least when it comes to foul-weather driving, with standard all-wheel-drive and the latest in safety technology. The GLE Coupe is, however, aimed at the performance crowd. **JEFF MELNYCHUK** WHEELBASE MEDIA

1 Engine Lineup

249-hp 3.0-litre V-6 turbo-diesel (nine-speed automatic transmission). 362-hp 3.0-litre turbo-charged V-6 (nine-speed automatic transmission). 577-hp turbocharged 5.5-litre V-8 (seven-speed paddle-shift transmission).

2 Safety tech

Assisted steering automatically keeps the GLE Coupe in the middle of the lane, but will deactivate if you try driving hands-free. Brake assist warns if you're closing too rapidly on the vehicle in front and will apply the brakes, if necessary, to help prevent a collision.

3 Cargo/Backseat

Rear seat is best for two people. With the sloped roof, the GLE a bit more than half of the cargo room behind the rear seats as the GLE wagon.

4 Design

About 10 centimetres longer and eight wider than the GLE wagon. Deeply contoured front seats are optional. Select from Comfort, Slippery, Sport, Sport+ and Individual modes. SOURCE: MERCEDES-BENZ



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GENDER ROLES

Women riders wanted

Last year, Sylvie Brisebois fulfilled her longtime dream of taking a solo motorcycle ride to California.

She also completed a less-solo ride when she led 200 other women bikers on an all-girl breast-cancer fundraising ride she organizes annually.

She started riding 10 years ago at the age of 45 and was instantly hooked.

"It's freedom; it's the place I feel the best," she said. "You're complete, you're away from all troubles, you're just happy."

Brisebois' bright pink booth may have been one of the most overtly feminine displays at Montreal's annual motorcycle trade show recently, but it was hardly the only one targeting women.

As baby boomer men — traditionally the biggest bike buyers — age and retire, the motorcycle industry is trying to entice newcomers, including women, to buy in.

In Quebec, women make up 13.8 per cent of motorcycle owners, and their ownership rates are growing slightly faster than men's.

The trade show's manager, Bianca Kennedy, says manufacturers are working to increase that number by offering products geared towards women, from different apparel to equipment



Bianca Kennedy, show manager for the Montreal Motorcycle Show on her Ducati Scrambler. MORGAN LOWRIE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

design to advertising.

Renee Larouche, a track instructor, says the company she co-owns started offering women-only track classes last year after seeing too many women dropping out of mixed groups.

"We saw they weren't always comfortable and felt they were in competition with the men, even if that wasn't the reality," she said.

Larouche says that while

men often want to go fast right away, women prefer to perfect their technique before increasing the speed. That isn't to say they aren't good riders, she is quick to say.

"Women move up quickly because they're very technical," she said. "Often at the beginning of the day the women's groups are the slowest, but by the end of the day they're passing the men."

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Dallas quarterback Tony Romo has undergone shoulder surgery and should be ready for off-season workouts when they start in May

Jays take pride in strength up middle

MLB

Special bond formed between Goins, Tulo, Martin, Pillar

They are not inseparable, but Blue Jays second baseman Ryan Goins is usually within whispering range of shortstop Troy Tulowitzki in the clubhouse.

The two are a league-leading double play combo since Tulowitzki arrived last July and formed a unique bond as baseball soul mates.

"Our team is full of household names ... it elevates your own game, makes you play to their standards," Goins said Tuesday, after the Jays improved to 6-1 in spring training with a 9-3 win over the Minnesota Twins.

Tulowitzki, who brings veteran leadership to the Jays, created a slogan to acknowledge the league-leading status of its middle defence of catcher, shortstop, second baseman and centre-fielder.

"Strong up the Middle" is a badge of honour among the foursome. Catcher Russell Martin, centre-fielder Kevin Pillar and Tulowitzki and Goins established themselves as the best up-the-middle defence in the American League during Toronto's charge to the post-season last season.

Now, the phrase is spoken be-



Blue Jays shortstop Troy Tulowitzki, middle, and second baseman Ryan Goins turn a double play against the Orioles' Daniel Alvarez on Friday. FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

“As good as our offence had been, we never took off until our defence improved.”

Manager John Gibbons

tween them like a handshake. It also reaffirms not only the status of the foursome on the diamond but the bond they share off it as friends.

"Strong up the middle ... Tulo

came up with that, and it was something we obviously believed in, being strong up the middle for the whole season," Goins said.

Behind that phrase is a re-

sulting bond that sees the players share commitment, laughs, dinners, and even a trip to the barber.

On the field, the foursome owned the best combined stats for defensive runs saved by a player last season. For this coming season, many predict the foursome will be baseball's best in defensive runs above average.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

CANADIAN GOLF

Kane at head of new Hall of Fame class

Lorie Kane's career is far from over, but she can't help but look back to where it all began.

Kane was named one of this year's inductees to the Canadian Golf Hall of Fame on Tuesday morning along with famed amateur Warren Sye and reporter Bob Weeks, who enters in the builder category.

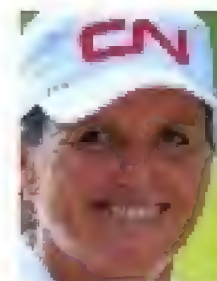
"This sits right beside my first win," said Kane, who won her first professional tournament in 2000 at the Michelob Light Classic outside St. Louis. "It took me a long time to get my first win and if I look at my career, if this is my 20th year, I've been truly blessed. I still see lots of future in front of me, as far as

my life in golf is concerned.

"I hope it doesn't mean the circle is complete because I still want to keep going around."

Kane, from Charlottetown, is still active on the LPGA Tour and has won eight pro tours in her career. She has also won the Bobbie Rosenfeld Award in 1997

and 2000 as the Canadian female athlete of the year and was named to the Order of Canada in 2006. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Lorie Kane
GETTY IMAGES FILE

TENNIS

Sponsors shy away from Sharapova

Maria Sharapova, the world's highest-earning female athlete for many years, was abandoned after she announced Monday that she failed a drug test for meldonium at the Australian Open in January.

Industry veterans were surprised by how quickly these companies backed away from such a bankable performer. Sharapova earned an estimated \$29.5 million last year alone, the vast majority off the court.

Open in January, days after the substance was banned.

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THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

\$36M

Sharapova has more than \$36 million in career prize winnings.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Wolfsburg reaches quarters

Andre Schuerrle scored to send Wolfsburg to the quarter-finals of the Champions League for the first time on Tuesday with a 1-0 win at home over Belgian champion Gent.

Julian Draxler easily skipped past a defender and crossed for his fellow Germany international to seal Wolfsburg's 4-2 aggregate victory in the 74th minute.

Both sides were playing in the Round of 16 for the first time, and Wolfsburg is just the seventh team to have progressed at the first attempt. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Madrid polishes off Roma

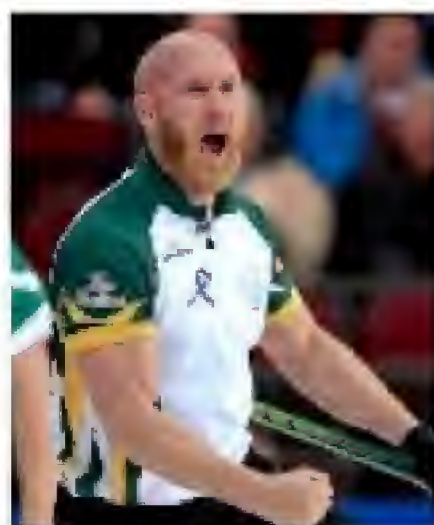
Cristiano Ronaldo and James Rodriguez scored second-half goals to help Real Madrid defeat Roma 2-0 and advance to the Champions League quarter-finals for the sixth consecutive season on Tuesday.

Ronaldo scored his 13th goal in the competition this season by turning home a cross by substitute forward Lucas Vazquez in the 64th and Rodriguez added to the lead four minutes later with a low shot from inside the area to give Madrid a 4-0 aggregate victory.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BRIER

Jacobs adds bushy beard to gun show



Brad Jacobs

JUSTIN TANG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

If the bulging biceps don't do it, the mountain man beards might do the trick.

The glowing resumés of Brad Jacobs and his Northern Ontario crew are intimidating enough. Tack on some top-flight facial hair to go with their imposing physiques and the visual battle is over before the first rock is thrown.

Fear the Beard is a buzz term at the Tim Hortons Brier, and with good reason. Jacobs is sporting a thick beard and teammates Ryan Fry and Ryan Harnden aren't far behind for

NEXT BEST

After 10 draws, Newfoundland and Labrador's Brad Gushue was alone in second place at 5-1. He beat Kevin Koe of Alberta 4-3 on Tuesday afternoon.

the unbeaten rink.

"The hairline is not getting any better so I figure if I can't grow it on top, maybe I'll grow it on my face," Jacobs said Tues-

day after picking up his fifth round-robin win.

"He doesn't do anything half-assed," Fry said. "When he says he's growing a beard, he's growing a frigging beard."

The fans have been showing them love this week. Moose calls rang out through the 8,200-seat venue when they completed a 6-2 win over Prince Edward Island's Adam Casey 6-2 on Tuesday morning.

The 2013 Brier champs improved to 6-0 later in the day with an 8-3 rout of Alberta's Kevin Koe. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Harvey loses ground on home soil

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING

Quebecer falls to 5th in Ski Tour Canada after rough day

Alex Harvey dropped a rung in the Ski Tour Canada on Tuesday. The good news, says his coach, is there's opportunity for Canada's cross-country ski star to regain ground.

Harvey was eliminated in the quarter-final round of Tuesday's classic sprint in Canmore. It was the fifth of eight races in the Ski Tour Canada, which opened last week with four races in Quebec.

Harvey dropped from fourth to fifth in the tour's overall ranking.

The 27-year-old from Saint-Ferreol-Les-Neiges, Que., did not speak to media after his race, but his body language spoke volumes. Harvey gesticulated angrily at team support staff after finishing fifth in his heat.

The Ski Tour Canada concludes Saturday at the Canmore Nordic Centre. Of the three races

WOMEN'S SIDE

No denying Norwegians

Norwegian women dominated both the day and the tour. Maiken Caspersen Falla, Astrid Uhrenholdt Jacobsen and Ingrid Flugstad Oestberg swept the podium Tuesday.

Teammates Heidi Weng and Therese Johaug remained first and second in the women's overall standings with Tuesday's medallists rounding out the top five.

remaining, the 30-kilometre ski-athlon Wednesday is the swing race of the circuit for the men, according to Canadian coach Justin Wadsworth.

"Tomorrow is going to be the real crux of the whole tour," Wadsworth said. "Tomorrow you could lose a minute, two minutes if you're not feeling in your top shape."

"(Alex) will lose a little time today, but in the overall picture,

with three hard races left, he'll be fine. He's a rock. He'll be ready tomorrow and he'll be mad. He'll use that energy in a good way. When the pressure and the big races come, he's always ready."

Sergey Ustiugov of Russia retained the overall lead 19.5 seconds ahead of Petter Northug Jr. of Norway, and one minute 10 seconds up on Norway's Emil Iversen.

The Norwegians' teammate Martin Johnsrud Sundby overtook Harvey, who placed 21st in the sprint and was 2:36 behind the Ustiugov.

"Very disappointed with today's result, even more so because I lost ground on the ones I am chasing," was Harvey's statement through a Cross Country Canada spokesperson.

Harvey placed second and fourth in Quebec City races last week. He arrived in Canmore under a minute off a podium position.

Federico Pellegrino of Italy won the men's sprint with Norwegian Eirik Brandsdal finishing second and Frenchman Maurice Manificat third. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Alex Harvey failed to advance past the quarter-finals of the classic sprint as part of the Ski Tour Canada on Tuesday in Canmore. JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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SWIMMING

Phelps fine-tuning body for Olympics

Michael Phelps adheres to a strict diet, is adamant about getting a good night's sleep and spends more time at the gym than ever before.

That's what happens when you turn 30 and still feel the need to make a splash at the Olympics.

Phelps has won a record 18 gold medals, and 22 medals overall, in three Olympics. He long ago made good on his quest to bring swimming into the national limelight, and now he's in the midst of one final push that will test his mettle and conditioning.

Phelps intends to leave nothing to chance in his preparation for the 2016 Olympics in Rio.

"I'm on top of this more than I ever have before because I'm 30 now," Phelps said Tuesday. "My body's not the same it was five years ago, 10 years ago. When I decided to come back, I knew I was going to do it the right way and be able to retire the way I want to retire." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Michael Phelps
GETTY IMAGES

NFL

Johnson leaves behind mega stats

Calvin Johnson, one the most spectacular receivers in NFL history, retired from the Detroit Lions on Tuesday and rekindled memories of the way superstar running back Barry Sanders quietly stepped away from football.

The 30-year-old Johnson called it a career after nine seasons filled with highlight-reel catches, dozens of touchdowns and nearly 12,000 yards receiving. The six-foot-five receiver was known as Megatron, a sign of respect for his imposing skills and unusual mixture of speed, power and



Calvin Johnson
GETTY IMAGES

gracefulness.

"Let me assure you that this was not an easy or hasty decision," Johnson said. "I, along with those closest to me, have put a lot of time, deliberation and prayer into this decision and I truly am at peace with it."

Johnson piled up 731 career receptions for 11,619 yards, a league-record 86.1 yards receiving per game, and 83 touchdowns. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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